



Lutherans in Medical Missions February 2019

A Note From Our Interim Executive Director



2019 - A year of new beginnings ... and getting my feet wet!

John Ortberg's book, "If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat", is packed with incredible lessons that I strive to use in my life. This book was a required read for one of my previous mission trips, and the implications on my life have not stopped. Each chapter opens your eyes to insights on

God calling you to serve Him. The statement, "*Walking on the water is not about some great thing you will do. In fact, by yourself, you can do nothing of lasting value. It is about what God longs to do with you by his power and grace*", brings me to where I am today. I have had the joy of serving with L IMM for the past 5 years, and this year, I have stepped into the role of Interim Director, attempting to carry forward the wonderful work that Rita Nickel has done.

At the ALMA conference last month, I heard some incredible speakers. They all focused on a common theme that we will be working on this year: **Getting to know the stories of our supporters.** To make this happen, we need to hear from you. Each of you are valued partners in this mission! As we plan for our 25th Anniversary celebration (keep posted for updates), we want to include you in the plans. I know why I donate and support L IMM, and now I want to know what brought you to our L IMM family. Don't be strangers - drop us a line at limm@limm.org.

Sharon



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Lutherans in Medical Missions (L IMM) works with local and global partners to share Christ's healing in medically underserved communities.

Save the Date

25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Saturday, April 25, 2020

ALMA Mission Conference



“Telling Mission Stories that Motivate” was the theme of the 2019 Association of Lutheran Mission Agencies (ALMA) conference that took place January 30th and 31st at the Crowne Plaza St Louis Airport Hotel. Rev. Matt Popovitis, Jean Johnson, Linda Haley, and Rev. Gabe Kasper were keynote speakers. Devotions were led by Rev. Johnson Rethinasamy. Topics discussed were how to tell our mission stories in a way to motivate others to support our work, how to craft our

mission stories without exploiting those we are called to serve, and using best practices in reaching people who are not interested in what we have to say about our ministry or our God. It was a great time meeting and networking with other LCMS ministries. A special blessing was meeting ALMA’s new Executive Director Faith Spelbring. Sharon Thomas, Hector Hoppe and Linda Jurgens represented LIMM at the conference.



Board Member Spotlight—David Wesche

David Wesche was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he attended Bethlehem Lutheran School and Concordia Lutheran High School. After 4 years at Ball State University, he graduated from the Honors Program with a BA in biology. He studied at the University of Freiburg (Germany) under the auspices of the Fulbright Program. After matriculating at Indiana University Graduate School and School of Medicine, David earned his MD and his PhD (Pharmacology). He completed his residency in Internal Medicine and was subsequently certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. He was commissioned as an officer in the US Army and completed his Fellowship in Clinical Pharmacology in a program sponsored jointly by the FDA and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences.

As a medical student, David did a clerkship with Dr. John Lautenschlager, former LCMS medical missionary in Nigeria. Subsequently Dr. Wesche served the LCMS as a medical missionary in Papua New Guinea. While there, he joined the Faculty of Medicine, University of PNG, to teach pharmacology and clinical pharmacology and conducted research in malaria and tropical diseases, which he carried forward to Walter Reed. On leaving active duty, he worked in the pharmaceutical industry for Parke Davis, Pfizer, Ovation Pharmaceuticals, and Lundbeck. He joined Certara Strategic Consulting in August 2013 and is presently supporting the global health research and medicines development, applying clinical pharmacology and drug-development expertise to Malaria and Neglected Tropical Disease investment teams.

David is presently living in Michigan along with his wife Deborah. He enjoys family time with their four children – Rachel, Christina, Daniel, and Susan – along with their spouses and the 10 grandchildren that grace his life. He especially enjoys outdoor activities in Pure Michigan.



Special Thanks to Our 2018 Donors

Alan and Audrey Abel	Hector and Beatriz Hoppe	Darlene Reiner
Craig Adam	Kenneth E. Horvath	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rekeweg
Allan and Julie Baker	Immanuel Lutheran Church—	Riverside Lutheran Church
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Ruth Benzie	Iowa West District - LWML	Rodney and Velma Rynearson
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Dorothy Hildebrandt	Eugene and Margaret Reardanz	
Mark Hoelter	Jeffrey and Heidi Reed	
Rick and Diane Holtz	Kathryn Reid	

Donor Corner - Hilke Schirmer

At a very young age I entertained the vision that someday I might contribute in some way to mission activities. More than 20 years ago, an invitation to support L IMM sparked a new desire when I read about the possibilities that opened up to the underserved population near and far once adequate financial assistance was provided. "Freely you have received, freely give!" (Matth. 10: 8b) I have marked this statement of Jesus' in big letters on my LWML Mite Box, as well as on my heart, and am amazed about the miraculous joy that pours out with each giving for mission projects or activities. To observe the power of the Holy Spirit as individual lives and whole communities have been touched because devoted servants of the Lord listened and followed His call and to see them in action in sometimes trying circumstances has confirmed my belief in L IMM's commitment. Blessings to the Board of L IMM and all partners in the mission fields!

Lutherans in Medical Missions

For more information, email:
limm@limm.org.

Please visit our website:
www.limm.org

Contact:
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Please visit our Facebook page:
Lutherans in Medical Missions

Donations may be sent to:
Lutherans in Medical Missions
P.O. Box 766
Concordia, MO 64020

Or go online at www.limm.org to
donate through paypal or credit card.

Contributions made directly to LIMM
are tax-deductible.

WANTED: LIMM Executive Director

The Executive Director is the key management leader of Lutherans in Medical Missions, which includes the implementation of the policies and procedures approved by the Board of Directors. The primary areas of responsibility are administrative, fund raising/development, and public relations. This person must be a committed Christian, in good standing of a LCMS congregation, and able to carry out the mission of LIMM with little or no supervision. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor degree in administration or health-related field, have a passion for missions and health services, and live within the continental United States. This is a part-time (18-20 hours/week) paid position. A complete job description is available on our website (LIMM.org) or contact Sharon Thomas at 815-985-5542 for more information.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Since 2010, over \$414 million has been distributed to thousands of churches, schools, and other non-profits just like ours through Thrivent Choice. Through this program, eligible members can make an impact by recommending where Thrivent donates its charitable outreach dollars each year. **We are excited to share, Lutherans In Medical Missions received \$5,490 in charitable outreach funding in 2018.** All 2018 Choice Dollars have been made available for members to direct and 2018 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2019. LIMM would like to encourage you to direct now, by using the free promotional materials available in the Promote Thrivent Choice section on Thrivent.com. And thank you to all who have already donated to LIMM through Thrivent Choice Dollars!!

LIMM Prayer and Praise



- Thank God for the opportunity to teach CHE/TOT in Central America.
- Pray for our Board of Directors as we meet for our annual meeting in March.
- Pray for God's best choice for LIMM's new Executive Director.
- Thank God for his blessings to LIMM these past 25 years.
- Pray for the planning of LIMM's 25th Anniversary celebration.
- Thank God for our faithful donors who support LIMM with gifts and prayers.
- Thankful to Concordia Lutheran Ministries for their grant.

Lutherans in Medical Missions participates in Thrivent's Choice Dollars® program. If you have Choice Dollars available to direct, please consider directing to Lutherans in Medical Missions. We will use your Thrivent Choice grant funding for future mission projects.

Lutheran in Medical Missions is a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization under IRS code section 501(c)(3). Contributions made directly to Lutherans in Medical Missions are tax-deductible.